

the Minister of Finance had authorized a new transcription on the books of the office at Paris.

Mr. Briggs addressed the Society, urging some action for applying the Magellanic funds to the rewarding of discoverers and inventors who did not apply for the premium.

Mr. Fraley thereupon gave a short history of the original bequest, the accumulation of the extra fund, the legal opinion of Mr. Horace Binney respecting its use, its application by the Society to publication, the establishment of the extra-Magellanic premium, the publication of other premiums, and the appointment of a committee on premiums at large.

On motion it was

*Resolved*, That the Board of Officers and Members in Council be requested to take into consideration the present regulations in regard to the award of the Magellanic Premium, and to report, if they may deem any change expedient, such modifications as may lead to the awarding of said Premium for objects of scientific discovery mentioned in the original donation.

And the meeting was adjourned.

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*Obituary Notice of Dr. John Neill. By Dr. Brinton.*

(*Read before the American Philosophical Society, Nov. 5, 1880.*)

Among the numerous surgeons of distinction who have given lustre to medical science in Philadelphia, the late Dr. Neill deservedly stood in the front rank. He came of a race of physicians, his father and both his paternal and maternal grandfathers having been members of that profession. He was born in Philadelphia, July 9th, 1819, and received both his academic and medical degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, the latter in 1837. The whole of his subsequent life was passed in this city, where he soon acquired large surgical and general practice. At various periods he occupied prominent positions in relationship to his profession. It will be sufficient to mention the leading ones of these. As early as 1845 he was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, and thirty years later, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the same institution. For several years after 1864, he was Professor of General Surgery in the medical department of Pennsylvania College, an educational organization not now in existence. At various epochs he was surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital, to the Philadelphia Hospital, to Wills Hospital, and Consulting Surgeon to the Presbyterian Hospital.

During the war of the Rebellion, especially in its earlier years, he was actively engaged in rendering professional services to the wounded soldiery.

In the summer of 1861 he was appointed by the General Government to establish army hospitals in this city, and the first eight organized and constructed here were put in working order under his supervision. At the height of the conflict, when the Southern forces invaded this State, he was appointed Medical Director of the militia and emergency troops of the State. In fulfilling the duties of this office, he was at Gettysburg after the battle, taking care of the wounded, and established a hospital at Carlisle, and also those at Hagerstown, Md.

Dr. Neill was a writer as well as a practitioner. His contributions to literature were principally, if not exclusively, confined to subjects relating to medical and surgical science, and were usually in the form of articles in medical periodicals. He is known as the author of several anatomical works treating of the arteries, veins and nerves, and also of the surgical and anatomical portions of a very popular work for students, entitled "A Compendium of Medical Science," published about twenty-five years ago.

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*A Review of the Species of ANISODACTYLUS inhabiting the United States.*  
By George H. Horn, M.D.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, Nov. 5, 1880.)

It is difficult to understand why this genus has passed almost entirely neglected, and why so much confusion and consequent synonymy prevail, when a short study will demonstrate how easily the species may be grouped and each separated from the other by sharply defined structural characters.

The division of the genus into three subgenera by the form of the anterior tibial spur is long known, but the characters which follow seem for the most part to have entirely escaped notice. The first of these, taken from the structure of the posterior tarsus, and the length of the first joint as compared with the next two, needs no further explanation.

The presence of two or one setigerous puncture on each side of the clypeus near the anterior margin is a character of very great importance and may be used elsewhere in the Carabidæ in the separation of smaller groups of species in the manner indicated in the accompanying table.

The structure of the underside of the male tarsi is also very useful here, it affords a means of supplementing any character which may be drawn from the two sexes together, separating very sharply species which appear superficially closely allied.

In the *dilatatus* and *sericeus* groups I have been unable to distinguish any true dorsal puncture. In all the other species the dorsal puncture is distinct and will be found at the posterior third of the elytra on or very close to the second stria.

All the species have the spurs of the posterior tibiæ slender and rather